

Fuel for Thought

April 2006

939th Air Refueling Wing
Portland IAP, Ore.

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Officials discuss realignment in Town Hall meeting. — Page 3

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939th Reservists share their inspiring experiences of volunteering. — Page 6

A woman with short brown hair, wearing a military camouflage uniform, is focused on writing on a whiteboard. She is wearing a dark glove on her right hand and holding a green marker. The whiteboard is mounted on a wall, and the background shows an indoor setting with a concrete pillar and a fluorescent light fixture. The text "Qualifying Score" is overlaid in large white letters at the bottom of the image.

Qualifying Score

FuelForThought

April 20th is the deadline for submissions to the May issue of **Fuel For Thought**. All articles and photos must be turned in to the 939th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office by 4 p.m.

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ON THE COVER

Photo By Ruby Zarzyczny
After Master Sgt. Della Oglevie, 939th Mission Support Squadron combat arms training and maintenance craftsman administers the M9 pistol Air Force Qualification Course here, she counts the holes in the target to get the shooters score March 3. The qualification course has changes over the last year because of the use of body armor, so now the qualification course includes failure drills. Master Sgt. Della Oglevie is the Security Forces Flight NCOIC, and she has been a combat arms instructor for 17 of her 20 years in the Air Force.



Major Hancock

Success determined by people, sense of purpose

By Maj. Laddie Hancock
939th Maintenance Squadron commander

The 939 Maintenance Squadron is a complex squadron dedicated to core values. I have only had the pleasure of being the squadron commander for a few months, but I have already learned so much and gained an appreciation for the difficulties related to keeping the fleet safe and mission capable. The ability to move thousands of pounds, over great distances requires constant flawless attention.

Our success is predicated upon several building blocks. First is our people. Constantly challenged, each member of the squadron has to call upon their extensive training, and professionalism to maintain our aircraft. As almost everyone knows, most of our aircraft were built in the 1950's. If you have ever owned a classic car, you know they don't just run and look nice absent a great deal of energy. Our aircraft are no exception. They can be temperamental and demanding. Unfortunately, the maintenance mission doesn't have latitude for mistakes. Almost every job in our country has a certain amount of expected human error. The expectation is zero tolerance when it comes to human error in aircraft maintenance.

The second building block, the sense of

purpose took a direct hit with the news related to Portland's closure. Any team working towards a goal has to feel important and recognized. Announcing our closure sent a rift through the organization that in my career has been unparalleled. Hats off to our people who refuse to lose sight of the mission at hand. They have resolved themselves to providing a professional product, on time and safely. Only during the toughest of times do we get to see the true composure of our teams.

I am convinced that this squadron will never stray from understanding its primary purpose. They have convinced me that throughout this change, they will continue to understand the importance of their mission. Words are always cheap. It is the actions I always gauge. When I see one of our NCO's recognized as an "Airman of the Year," or accept awards for the Aerospace Ground Equipment shop for maintaining a superior safety program or the superintendent telling me we have greatly diminished the periodic inspection timelines, then I know we are on track and on target. When I step outside my office and see a four foot squadron patch being hung on the wall, or symbols being placed around the conference room or pictures of maintainers lining the halls, I know our spirit lives on.

I would like to express my personal thanks to the members of this squadron for being willing to go the extra mile. From 286 over- due training items to a total of three, and warrior skills training in the ninety percentiles, there is little more I can ask except one thing – perfection.

The BRAC remains an ever present work force condition. It is a heavy weight, but our warriors are used to moving heavy weight, thousands of pounds a day.

In the end, we have come to the realization we need to finish the job in a way that pays respect and honor to the many missions flown, the risks that have been taken and the lives lost by members of our wing in service of their country.

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939th officials field BRAC questions from Reservists

By Maj. James R. Wilson
939th Public Affairs Office

Do your homework, understand what options are available and be prepared to accept a job offer once it's made. Those were the recurring themes from officials in the 939th Air Refueling Wing in a series of Town Hall meetings held here during the March Unit Training Assembly.

The Town Hall meetings provided hundreds of reservists with an opportunity to voice concerns and solicit answers from the 939th Air Refueling Wing commander and his support staff on BRAC.

"Be familiar with information contained on the wing's [Base Realignment And Closure] website," said Capt. Charles Knapp, 939th Mission Support Squadron commander. "The web site contains a wealth of information on our realignment—all of which is organized by duty status so it's easy to find."

Reviewing information on the web site is the first step most reservists should take in preparing for their future. Reservists who are confused or unable to locate answers to specific questions should contact military or civilian personnel specialists.

Officials explained the importance of getting answers to BRAC questions soon. This is especially true for Air Reserve Technicians and Department of Defense civilians assigned to the 939th groups who can begin registering in the Clearing House April 3.

This tool, which helps the Reserve Command match displaced members with vacant positions, becomes available to traditional Reservists on Oct 1. Information on the Clearing House and other personnel matters related to the realignment can be found in the Air Force Reserve Command BRAC guide.

"I highly encourage everyone to read the BRAC guide as it will answer many of your questions about the realignment," Captain Knapp said.

Captain Knapp echoed advice given by AFRC representatives during their visit to Portland in February—register early for the

Clearing House. Delaying will result in applicants competing with members of other BRAC-affected units for vacancies which may limit employment options.

"Once you're allowed to get into the Clearing House, it would be prudent to do so in order to maintain control of your destiny" Captain Knapp said.

A number of people wanted to know if it would be possible for a military shuttle to pick up members at Portland and take them to other Reserve locations for military duty.

"That option is being considered by AFRC," Maj. David Jeske, 939th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander said.

"We need numbers (i.e., a large group) in order for this to be feasible."

The wing is developing a survey which will be distributed soon to ascertain the level of interest in this option. If the demand is significant, the 939th will explore this possibility further with representatives from AFRC.

Another issue AFRC is addressing concerns facilities at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., for members assigned to the wing staff and the 939th Mission Support Group. According to the major, individuals in these positions are scheduled to remain at Portland until offices can be built at the Southern California base.

"Details concerning the new Reserve space mission at Vandenberg are still being worked, but as of now, the command has targeted Oct. 1, 2010 as the date to stand up the 939th Space Wing," said Major Jeske.

Colonel William Flanigan, 939th Air Refuel Wing commander concluded each of the meetings with words of encouragement.

"The intent behind the Town Hall meetings is to push as much information as possible to you on the realignment for our wing," he said. "Be familiar with the [personnel] system and make it work for you. This is a turbulent time for us so watch your wingman and please don't forget the importance of safety in the days ahead."

Wing plans AFEM training

By Master Sgt. Joel Wheeler
939th Air Force Emergency Management

The 939th Civil Engineer Squadron Readiness Office is working hard to improve the wing's Air Force Emergency Management capabilities.

The objective is to ensure items that will be inspected during the May Unit Compliance Inspection are in order. The Readiness Office plans to give Chemical Biological Radiological Explosive training and AFEM special team instruction, as well as Staff Assistance Visits to help get the wing ready for the UCI.

AFEM TRAINING

The Readiness Office will provide a CBRNE training course on the April Unit Training Assembly. In addition, one CBRNE class will be taught during the next two 939th Maintenance Group alternate UTAs.

STAFF ASSISTANCE VISITS

All 939 ARW units have been scheduled to receive unit-level AFEM program SAVs over the next couple of months. During these SAVs, the Readiness Office will provide help to units in determining how to best meet emergency management requirements placed on it by the Air Force, the wing, and the hosts in the Air National Guard.

UNIT COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

During the May UCI, we can count on inspectors to conduct a thorough review

of wing's AFEM program. Not only will they go over the 939 CES Readiness Office's records, inspectors will also visit several units throughout the Wing.

Based on the AFEM SAV we recently received, there are several things the wing needs to improve.

- Wing and unit-level CBRNE training statistics need to be maintained at an acceptable level -

- SAVs that are scheduled over the next couple months must take place.

- Documentation showing that the units have appointed members into additional duty positions including AFEM Program Representatives, EET, and AFEM augmentees.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Readiness office any time at 503-335-4519.

ARPC expands customer support for drilling reservists

By Tech. Sgt. Rob Mims
Air Reserve Personnel Center Public Affairs

DENVER (AFPN) — Air Reserve Component members can speak to an Air Reserve Personnel Center customer service representative the first weekend of each month from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. MST.

“ARPC is now manned Saturdays and Sundays to help better serve all ARC Airmen,” said Col. Ann Shippy, center commander. “This is another step in our personnel service delivery transformation toward improving customer service for all of our Reserve force.”

This enhanced customer service step gives drilling reservists the flexibility to speak with a customer service representative to help resolve personnel issues during their primary unit training assembly,

which typically occurs the first weekend of every month.

“Some people don’t have time during the week to take care of personnel issues,” said Staff Sgt. Carrie Doolen, who volunteered to work the first weekend. “That is why we will come in on the weekends to help them out.”

Reservists who still aren’t able to call ARPC are encouraged to log on to the virtual Personnel Center Guard and Reserve, a 24/7 customer service Web portal operated by ARPC at arpc.afrc.af.mil/support/default.asp. Airmen will have to answer a few questions to establish an account.

ARPC and the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, are currently working to centralize and automate many personnel functions and processes throughout the entire Air Force.

Air Force explains discontinued Good Conduct Medal

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

The Air Force Uniform Board announced Feb. 6 that the Good Conduct Medal will no longer be awarded.

The Air Force director of Airman development and sustainment recently explained the reasons behind this decision.

“The quality of our enlisted personnel today is so high, and we expect good conduct from our Airmen,” said Brig. Gen. Robert Allardice. “It begged the question, ‘Why do we have a Good Conduct Medal?’”

“Today’s all-volunteer force is committed to serving honorably, and good conduct is what we expect from every Airman — officer and enlisted,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray.

Airmen who have previously earned the Good Conduct Medal are still authorized to wear it.

Program sends Reservists to civilian nursing schools

By Master Sgt. Gary Johnson
Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE, Ga. — The first non-prior service recruit to enroll in Air Force Reserve Command’s Licensed Practical Nurse Education Assistance Program graduated March 24.

Senior Airman Elizabeth Quartullo will receive her diploma of practical nursing from the ATS Institute of Technology, Highland Heights, Ohio.

LEAP is a new AFRC initiative that allows individuals entering the medical technician (4N0X1) career field the opportunity to attend an approved civilian licensed practical nurse school instead of attending (4N031) technical school. The command pays for

tuition, books and other course fees. LEAP students must maintain satisfactory unit participation while attending a one-year school.

Airman Quartullo joined the Air Force Reserve Oct. 22, 2004. After three job layoffs in two years, she decided something needed to change.

“I really needed to find a more stable career path,” Airman Quartullo said.

Airman Quartullo said she’s always been interested in a career in healthcare but didn’t have the money to go back school because she was still paying off student loans from completing a master of business administration program at Pepperdine

University, Los Angeles, in 2002.

She decided to investigate job opportunities in the Air Force Reserve.

“I was 34 at the time and knew it was now or never,” Airman Quartullo said.

“It was a perfect way to receive training to transition into a nursing career,” she continued. “I also found out that not only would I be eligible for GI Bill benefits to further my education, but there was a ‘kicker’ for nursing school, providing additional money for school.”

Airman Quartullo credits Tech. Sgt. John Wood, her recruiter in Euclid, Ohio, with helping her achieve her goals.

LEAP provides new Reservists and cross trainees

an alternative civilian training option. At the same time, it allows Air Force Reserve Command to improve its readiness capabilities while lower training costs.

Each AFRC wing has established quotas for the program, and recruiters have more details about how to apply for it. *(Editor’s note: The 939th has two LEAP authorizations. Reservists interested in cross training can contact the wing education center for more information about the program.)*

Command seeks reservists for Recruiting

By Master Sgt. Gary Johnson
Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – If you are motivated and perform above the status quo, you might consider a career in recruiting.

Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service is always looking for enthusiastic, qualified people who are physically and morally fit.

Recruiting is not an ordinary 9-5 job. In the eyes of the community, Recruiters are the Air Force Reserve. They represent the pride, honor and tradition of the Air Force

Reserve to everyone they meet.

Recruiters work in the community visiting radio and television stations, high schools and colleges, and attend job fairs where they meet people who they will help make career decisions that will affect the rest of their lives.

The process of becoming a recruiter starts by meeting with the local senior recruiter face to face. Reservists interests in becoming recruiters complete a packet that includes a current

physical, and then packet goes to the recruiter selection board at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

If the package is approved, the next step for the Reservist is to attend a five-day evaluation and selection course at AFRC Recruiting Service headquarters. The course gauges a person's potential to become a successful recruiter.

"The course introduces prospective candidates to reserve recruiting," said Chief Master Sgt. Budell Willis, chief of recruiting's training branch. "Candidates stand an open-ranks inspection, participate in

physical training, give speeches and complete memorization work.

"The challenges are progressive," he said. "Only the top candidates attend the six week recruiting school at Lackland, Air Force Base, Texas."

New recruiters serve an initial, extended tour of active duty for up to four years. They can extend their tours if they meet or exceed the highest standards of conduct, demeanor, appearance, integrity, production and acceptance of responsibility.

AF Crossroads website fashions new design

By Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein
Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The Air Force A1 office of family matters will soon unveil its updated Air Force Crossroads Web site for Airmen and families to gather facts about installations, military moves, education and more.

Though the current site contains a lot of information, its many layers made the site difficult to navigate, said Brenda Liston, chief of Airmen and family readiness policy at the Pentagon.

"With the new site, the information is a lot more accessible," she said. "It's more user-friendly so that customers can sign in and begin surfing for information immediately."

From employment resources to education and health to spouses' forums, customers will be connected to links and other resources geared to the military lifestyle.

Two new options on the site include the ability to compare installations with side-by-side pop-up windows and signing up for newsletters that will be sent directly to the individual.

Based on feedback and analysis, the new Web site was built to address the ever-changing needs of the military family, including helping former Airmen find employment outside the gates. Employers looking to specifically employ former Airmen have recently been contacting the Crossroads Web site. Those recruitment announcements are also included in the job banks on the new Web site.

The new site will make its official debut April 1. A link to the new format is available on <http://www.afcrossroads.com>.

AF gets A-staff realignment

The Air Staff at Headquarters Air Force made a change on Feb. 1 that will make it look a lot more like its counterparts in the Army, Navy and Joint world by realigning under an "A-staff" structure. Major commands have followed suit with full implementation set for May 1.

The A-staff realignment will enhance warfighting capability by improving Air Force communications internally and with the other Services and Joint organizations.

By adopting the wellknown staff structure, the Air Force will eliminate the difficulty sometimes encountered when leadership at one headquarters attempts to contact functional counterparts at another headquarters.

Here's how the standard Astaff template looks:

- A1 - Manpower and Personnel
- A2 - Intelligence
- A3 - Air, Space and Information Operations
- A4 - Logistics
- A5 - Plans and Requirements
- A6 - Communications
- A7 - Installations and Mission Support
- A8 - Strategic Plans and Programs
- A9 - Analyses, Assessments and Lessons Learned

At Headquarters Air Force, the "A3" and "A5" staff functions will be paired together as will be the "A4" and "A7." Intelligence will be elevated from a director under the AF/XO to an assistant chief of staff.

This staff realignment will neither create nor eliminate jobs. Instead, it will make it easier for Airmen to do their jobs, both within the Air Force and within the joint environment.

939th Reservists inspire by example

By Master Sgt. Ruby Zarzyczny
939th Public Affairs Office

"Inspire by Example," is this year's theme for National Volunteer Week, April 23-29. The whole world knows that Air Force Reservists volunteer to serve their country at home and abroad. How many people know about the many Reservists who volunteer in their communities?

Keeping with the theme of the week, if a volunteer's example goes unnoticed, can he be an example to inspire others? Here are a few inspiring examples of 939th Air Refueling Wing Reservists volunteerism.

Tech. Sgt. Chester O'Leary, 939th Operations Support Flight intelligence analyst volunteers as a reserve police officer for the Portland Police Reserve Division. Since 1989, Sergeant O'Leary spends about 20 hours a month every other Monday on duty with the goal of supporting regular police officers in the field. During Sergeant O'Leary 17 years of service, he has worked in many different areas.

"We mainly do traffic and write citations and give warnings," Sergeant O'Leary said. "We do traffic support for parades and the Rose Festival. We also help out with other things like the foster kids program and any area we think the police department needs us. We do a Christmas detail where we walk a beat downtown and keep all the shoppers safe."

"I got to protect President Clinton, and protect and meet President Bush senior," he said. "It was interesting working with the secret service. I've worked with the bomb squad and help defuse some bombs. That work was kind of fascinating."

Sergeant O'Leary got involved with the Portland Police Reserve Division

because when he was younger he always wanted to be a police officer. After leaving the Regular Air Force, he got a job with the union but still wanted to be a police officer or at least do something for the kids and the community because of the drug problem. During a routine traffic stop on Columbia Blvd., Sergeant O'Leary discovered heroin in the car.

"This was a big drug bust," Sergeant O'Leary said. "We took quite a few ounces of heroin off the streets. Getting those drugs off the streets really meant a lot

to me because taking those drugs off the streets probably helped save a lot of people's minds [lives]. It may have also saved lives in



Capt. Duane Hinkle [far right] gives high-fives in the welcome tunnel at Camp Rosenbaum, Camp Rilea, Ore. 2005.

the future because the dealers were off the streets too." Although his desire to become a police officer brought Sergeant O'Leary to the reserve police force, he discovered another reason for staying.

"I can help change somebody's life," Sergeant O'Leary said. "I've sat down with prostitutes and told them 'If you don't change your life you're going

to lose your kids or your life. I've caught kids with marijuana and rather than throwing them in jail, I've sat down with them and their parents and actually talked with them and directed them to counseling. I really think if I can change one life, to me it makes a difference for the whole 17 years [of volunteering]. If one kid changes, it can make a big impact on the community. I feel like I've been able to do that more than once."

Senior Master Sgt. Dianna Cox, 939th Medical Squadron nursing services superintendent

volunteers with the Goose Hallow Family Homeless Shelter, Orphans Overseas, the Beaverton Clothes Closet, Hands to Heart and the Girl Scout Camp. Giving to others in need is a part of her full-time life.



Sergeant Cox

Sergeant Cox was also awarded the Air Force Volunteer Service Medal for her volunteer efforts in Romania with the Northwest Medical team, a nonprofit organization based in Tigard, Ore. Sergeant Cox went to Romania to work with the orphans three times.

"I went to Romania to work in the orphanages to do infant massage work there," Sergeant Cox said. "The massage stimulates hormones that stimulate the brain to help with attachment, growth and development. In Romania the orphans were not being stimulated at all."

"We saw immediate results with the massage," Sergeant Cox continued. "The first time I went there the orphanages had about 200 hundred babies lined up and lying in cribs like animals. The babies were like sponges to the massage. They were like flowers that didn't have water and to see the difference was absolutely amazing."

After the first time Sergeant Cox went to Romania the laws were changed, so when she went back, she worked in the communities teaching families and foster families infant massage.

"Volunteering is my heart," Sergeant Cox said. "I'm meant to network with people. I find out what people need and connect them to the right people. For me, I don't think there is any other choice. I

think I have this gift to be able to manage my time and network with people. I can't ignore that."

Sergeant Cox says that volunteering isn't for everyone.

"Some people are comfortable in giving financial donations and others are comfortable in giving time donations," Sergeant Cox said. "I give my time. Sergeant Cox believes when you're having a sad day giving to others always makes you feel better.

Staff Sgt. Jamie Garcia, 939th Air Refueling Wing paralegal assistant, volunteers in an internship at the Washington County Sheriff's Office Jail Division. She volunteers 20 hours a week doing intake procedures, personal searches, and cell searches at the jail. This volunteering experience will help Sergeant Garcia towards her goal of graduating from Portland State University with an Administration of Justice degree. While Sergeant Garcia is helping the community she is also improving herself by becoming more professional.



Sergeant Garcia

"Sometimes you feel like you're a professional," Sergeant Garcia said. "But then it's not until you see [experience] something different that your eyes open to a whole new horizon of what a professional can be."

"After volunteering in the jail, I realized that there are worlds out there I have yet to see and how to treat people with respect in an adverse situation," she said.

Sergeant Garcia plans to continue her volunteering after she finishes her internship. She would like to work with children because they are a vulnerable part of our society.

"Children don't have choices and need adults to make choices for them," Sergeant Garcia said. "I want to keep them out of jail. I think it's only natural to feel good when you're able to help people and give back to your community."

Maj. Shane Toomay 939th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander, volunteers as a leader in the AWANA ministry at the Brush Prairie Baptist Church in Wash.

"AWANA is an acronym meaning: Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed," Major Toomay said.



Maj. Toomay [far right].

"This is taken from a famous verse in the Christian Bible. My job is to be a leader and mentor to 3rd through 6th grade boys in three areas: handbook time, council time, and game time, and other activities like the AWANA Olympics, grand prix, bible quiz, and scholarship camp."

"I spend about 2 and a half hours per week plus time for the extra events as needed, which can run up to 20 additional hours per event, like the grand prix [pine-car derby type race] coming up in April," Major Toomay added.

The main reason Major Toomay says he serves in the AWANA club is to have the opportunity to give back what he learned as a boy growing up.

"When children have no mentor and are left to play

unsupervised amongst themselves, they will learn situational ethics, selfishness, and greed," Major Toomay said. "With a mentor guiding them along the way using sound ethical standards [like the Christian Bible], empathy, and involvement; children learn love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self-control, and good citizenship."

His volunteer work also gives back to him personally.

"It has impacted my life in the fact that the kids show me how to have fun and joy in a serious and sometimes cruel world," Major Toomay said. "I am reliving my childhood, as much as my 48-year-old body will allow, with adult Christian ethics and a grateful heart."

This is Major Toomay's 14th year of working with the AWANA club. Although he is up at 4:30 a.m. and doesn't get home until 8:30 p.m. on club nights, he believes his efforts are well worth it when he sees how these great young people develop into responsible citizens.

Master Sgt. Joel Wheeler, 939th Civil Engineer Squadron Air Force emergency manager and Master Sgt. James Ediger, 939th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aircraft mechanic, volunteer at the Silver Star Search and Rescue founded in 1963 by Citizen's Band radio operators in Washougal, Wash.

Prior to joining Silver Star Search and Rescue, Sergeant Ediger volunteered for the City of Camas volunteer fire department for 12 years. Two years ago when the volunteer fire department went away, Sergeant Ediger encouraged Sergeant Wheeler, who was interested in volunteering for the Camas volunteer fire department, to join Silver Star Search and Rescue organization.



Sergeants Wheeler and Ediger

Sergeant Ediger is now the medical officer for the organization, and he has his Washington State Emergency Medical Technician license, and Sergeant Wheeler is the training officer for the organization. They have been able to use their Air Force training to improve the organization with its emergency management and training tracking processes.

Since they are both officers in the organization, they attend a board meetings and a business meetings, and two to four training opportunities a month. The some of the training topics included: first aid, vehicle awareness, fire suppression, terrorism awareness, first aid, maps, compass, rescue procedures, helicopter operations, and community emergency response team training.

After receiving a call for help, they can find themselves working anywhere from a few hours to a few days. They average about one rescue a month. In the last year, the group has walked house-to-house and in the deep, dark woods searching for people. When they get a call, during a blizzard, on a sunny day or even at 2 a.m. these volunteers are ready to help.

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Inspire, Continued from Page 7

"Bad weather causes bad things to happen," said Sergeant Wheeler. "Fall and winter happen to be our busier times for rescues because of snow mobiles, hunters, Alzheimer patients, and people getting into bad situations."

"We are also involved in the Nurses Net," said Sergeant Ediger. "During bad weather, we will go pick up and/or take home nurses and other medical professionals from the local hospitals to ensure there isn't an emergency medical shortage."

Why do these men volunteer their free time to help people?

"At first I volunteered purely for selfish reasons to keep my EMT certification, but then ended up finding out that this [search and rescue] is a real kick in the pants," Sergeant Ediger said.

"The word purpose can describe the feeling you get when you go on a rescue. Whether it's training or a real mission, it's been a lot of fun."

"Along with giving back to the community, I've always wanted to get into the Silver Star Search and Rescue organization since I was a kid," said Sergeant Wheeler. "When you get called out on a rescue you get to do something that will make a difference."

Additionally, Sergeant Wheeler also volunteers to coach high school sports, while Sergeant Ediger volunteers as a Mountain Host [ski patrol] helping people who visit the Timberline Ski Lodge. He volunteers there about eight hours a month. His parents also volunteer at the lodge, so sometimes he brings his sons and makes his volunteering a family affair.

These volunteers credit their understanding bosses and families for being able to volunteer as much as they do.

Senior Airman Rachael Lowery, 939th Maintenance Squadron aerospace ground equipment specialist

is volunteering to go to New Orleans to clean up the Hurricane Katrina Aftermath with the Habitat for Humanity organization through the Campus Crusaders club during her spring break.

Although she regularly volunteered as a girl scout, this is the first time she has volunteered for a project like this.

"We are going there for a week and stay at Camp Hope," Airman Lowery said. "We're going to meet with the families first, and then we are going to tear down houses, do construction work, and clean up the neighborhoods."

Airman Lowery, a young college student, is spending her spring break in a tent in New Orleans tearing down houses in an area that has been reported to be covered with black mold and smells bad.

"I just wanted to help," Airman Lowery said. "I think it's going to be an opportunity of a life time because it's not very often that you get to volunteer to go and help change a person's life."

Airman Lowery will be in New Orleans March 25 -31 and then return to the wing April 1 for the unit training assemble.

Capt. Duane Hinkle, 939th Air Refueling Wing financial services officer volunteers as the Treasurer for Camp Rosenbaum. Camp Rosenbaum is a youth citizenship camp located at Camp Rilea, Ore. that helps under privileged kids who

live in low income housing.

The camp combines a week full of fun activities with a program that focuses on building self-esteem and presenting the values of good citizenship.

"I volunteer at the camp as the finance guy, and my camp name is "Money Bags," Captain Hinkle said. "I handle all the funds and the sales of camp products like t-shirts and mugs. Then during our Very Important Guest day, the governor, state representatives, and important people throughout the state come to visit the camp. Those guests will donate money to the camp and purchase products."

Captain Hinkle originally started volunteering with the Oregon Air National Guard and has been at the camp for five years now. He does monthly financial reconciliations, makes presentations at the board of directors meetings once a quarter, and participates in fund raising activities. But for him the week at camp is the pay off for his volunteer efforts.

"I was recruited to help the camp with the finances because that is my area of expertise," Captain Hinkle said. Before then, I knew about the camp but I hadn't really participated enough to really understand what it was all about."

"Once I started it was amazing how addicting the camp was because you see the difference the camp makes with the kids," Captain Hinkle said. "It's hard to explain without actually witnessing it. When you watch these kids get off the bus at the beginning of camp most of their faces are pretty subdued. We make them run through a line of people where we welcome them with high-fives to the camp. Then throughout the week it's amazing because you watch these kids transition and by the end of the week it's like they are a totally different kid. Once you see that and participate in that, it's hard for me not to do it."

Captain Hinkle has put the camp on track financially, and is now helping it to become financially self-sufficient through partnerships with the community, donations, grants and investing. He plans to continue investing his time with the camp.

"I feel like I'm giving back," Captain Hinkle said. "It's hard to relate to what these kids live everyday. Their daily lives are really hard to imagine, some of these kids have some pretty sad stories. Before, I didn't really have an understanding of what's out there. Now that I have that awareness, I feel like maybe I can help the community and the future of these kids by helping them become productive citizens."

Captain Hinkle used to think he didn't have time to volunteer because he was too busy, but volunteering changed his perspective [about the world].

Captain Hinkle said, "Volunteering is an investment—an investment of your time."

"Give volunteering a try," Captain Hinkle said. Just explore it—go to a homeless shelter or get involved in another organization. When you find the right volunteering opportunity you will definitely feel a connection to it."

(Editor's note: Due to limited space in the Fuel for Thought, I was unable to include all of the Reservist who volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering, you can find these opportunities by visiting websites like <http://www.portlandonline.com>, or talking to reservist who volunteer.)



Captain Hinkle



Airman Lowery

Pushing pallets and passengers in the AOR

By Tech. Sgt. Paul Persson
939th Public Affairs Office

Twenty-four members of the 83rd Aerial Port Squadron recently returned from a 10-month deployment that included five months at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., and 130 days at an air base in Southwest Asia.

The team from Portland joined forces with teams from Air Forces bases in Wisconsin, North Carolina and Washington State.

"When we arrived overseas, we had most of our people licensed to operate the equipment," said Tech. Sgt. Michael Banning, a supervisor assigned to the ramp services section while deployed. "We took advantage of our training time at Travis by getting our people licensed, and even instructor certified," he said.

The attention to training paid off with a drastic reduction in vehicle accidents involving aerial port operations during the team's deployment.

The deployment not only allowed the team members to get training not usually available at home, but also gave them the chance to perform a wide variety of job related tasks.

"Our crew did everything in the Air Transportation career field while we were there," said Sergeant Banning.

"We met a wide variety of aircraft on the ramp and worked hand-in-hand with Australian and British military members," said Senior Airman Aaron Shackart, a member of the 83rd APS assigned to the passenger service section.

"We got the troops down-range to accomplish the mission, and then we got them home again," said Airman Shackart.

The team processed more than 400 tons of cargo and 88,000 passengers. Part of the cargo included four tons of emergency medical supplies being shipped to Pakistan following a major earthquake in October.

Airman Shackart, along with Staff Sgt. Marc Heidt, another team member assigned to passenger services there, helped to reorganize the "grid yard." The grid yard is an area used for staging pallets and equipment awaiting transport. Their extra efforts directly improved the overall efficiency of the aerial port there. In return for their efforts they received coins from the chief and the commander.

Sergeant Heidt also received a coin from the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in recognition for his work with several special operations aircraft.

The team also worked around numerous distinguished visitors.

"I worked aircraft carrying President George H. W. Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, several senators, numerous



Photo by Ms. Ruby Zarzyczny

Members of the 83rd Aerial Port Squadron load a cargo pallet here. Twenty-four members of the unit returned to Portland after deploying for 10 months to support the war on terror.

four-star generals and others during the deployment," said Sergeant Heidt.

"We went out of our way for the guys going to and returning from down-range," said Sergeant Heidt. "Some of them had been in transit for days at a time before they arrived. We'd take food out to them on the ramp or take them to the dining facility, get them to the showers, and help them get to a tent where they could get some sleep," he said.

Sergeant Banning said part of the reason members of the 83rd APS felt so compelled to help the soldiers returning from Iraq was the fact they received so much support from home during their absence.

"The Veterans of Foreign War post in Tualatin, Ore. sent us four 80-pound boxes of basic necessities, like razors, shaving cream and deodorant," Sergeant Banning said.

Maj. Connie Jenkins, commander of the 83rd APS, went to great lengths to make sure the team knew they were fully supported at home.

"The commander came down to Travis twice prior to our departure, then called every member of the unit at least twice during the deployment, and she was at Travis when we got back," he said.

"We were a long ways away, but we felt close because [the commander and the citizens of Oregon] really took care of us," said Sergeant Banning.

While at Travis, unit members received training on aircraft loading equipment, including the 60K loader, or "tonner", as well as other equipment. That type of training is not usually available to the unit's members during home station Unit Training Assemblies. When they arrived in Southwest Asia in September, the average high temperature was about 125 degrees. The working conditions consisted of working 12-to-14-hour shifts, initially with no days off.

The team members will demobilize April 5.

Civilian Employees

Newcomers

Ms. Kristy Williams,
*GS-04, 939th Logistics
Readiness Squadron*
Ms. Colleen Kuchta,
*GS-09, 939th Air Refueling
Wing*
Mr. Joshua Yarbrough,
*WG-09, 939th Maintenance
Squadron*

Military Members

Newcomers

Lt. Col. Karamjit Aujla,
939th Maintenance Group
1st Lt. Christina Handorf,
*939th Logistics Readiness
Squadron*
1st Lt. Michelle Robison,
*939th Mission Support
Squadron*
Tech. Sgt. Heath Conrad,
*939th Mission Support
Squadron*
Tech. Sgt. Jack Olms,
939th Medical Squadron

Promotions

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT

Timothy Lum, *304th Rescue
Squadron*
Derrick Stabell, *64th Air
Refueling Squadron*
MASTER SERGEANT
Eric Anderson, *939th Aircraft
Maintenance Squadron*
Christy Goldstandt, *939th
Mission Support Squadron*
Michael Kipp, *939th Aircraft
Maintenance Squadron*
David Shankle, *939th
Maintenance Operations
Flight*

TECHNICAL SERGEANT

Dennis Duplechain, *939th
Logistics Readiness
Squadron*
James Gross, *939th
Maintenance Squadron*

Promotions

TECHNICAL SERGEANT

Curtis Hanson,
939th Maintenance Squadron

STAFF SERGEANT

Jim Holtsman,
*939th Aircraft Maintenance
Squadron*

Jessica Lybarger,
939th Services Flight

Ryan Rathbun,
939th Medical Squadron

SENIOR AIRMAN

Seth Clark,
939th Communication Flight
Adam Gilles,
*939th Civil Engineer
Squadron*

Austin Ginter,
*939th Civil Engineer
Squadron*

Curtis Maltman,
*939th Logistics Readiness
Squadron*

Naomi Warner,
*939th Aircraft Maintenance
Squadron*

Deanna Welke,
939th Medical Squadron

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
Thomas Meacham,
304th Rescue Squadron

Victoria Patterson,
*939th Civil Engineer
Squadron*

AIRMAN

Eugene Markgraf,
*939th Aircraft Maintenance
Squadron*

Farewells

Maj. Graham Whitehouse,
939th OSF to 701st COS

Master Sgt. Michael Rak,
939th MOF to 932nd MOF

Master Sgt. Carl Williams,
939th MXS to 142nd MXM

Tech. Sgt. William Koenig,
939th AMXS to McChord

Tech. Sgt. Scott Saunders,
64th ARS to 306th RQS

Tech. Sgt. Matthew
Schoemehl,

939th ARW to ARPC

Staff Sgt. Donald Clavette,
939th AMXS to ARPC

Staff Sgt. Jessica Jenner,
939th MSS to 446th AW

Staff Sgt. Timothy Murphy,
939 MDS to Discharge

Staff Sgt. Jason Reiniger,
939th MDS to 419th MDS

Staff Sgt. Sarah Temple,
83rd APS to ARPC

Senior Airman Richard
Benway,

939th MXS to 459th ARW

Senior Airman Heather

Leonnig,

939th CES to Dobbins ARB

Retirements

Senior Master Sgt. Gregory
Seaver, *939th Mission Support
Group*

Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Byler, *939th
Mission Support Group*

Tech. Sgt. Marciano Cadatal,
939th Air Refueling Wing

Tech. Sgt. Bradley Crow,
939th Maintenance Group

Awards

Air Force Commendation Medal

Master Sgt. Theresa
Claiborne,
939th Air Refueling Wing
Master Sgt. Steven Jensen,
939th Air Refueling Wing
Tech. Sgt. Marciano Cadatal,
939th Air Refueling Wing
Tech. Sgt. Mark Christiansen,
*939th Maintenance Operations
Flight*

Looking back

April 16, 1994

Col. Anthony Tassone, Jr., 939th Rescue Wing commander, is made an honorary chief and promoted to the prestigious enlisted rank of chief master sergeant.

Colonel Tassone's wife, Maryland, daughters, Cristina, Mary, Amelia, and Sarah all attended the ceremony which was open to the entire wing and hosted by the chiefs of each unit.

The 939th presented the commander with an authentic Indian chief's war bonnet which Colonel Tassone later said will always be in a prominent position in his home.

"I want it to be an attention getter for people who visit," he said. "It will give me a chance to brag about the 939th and its people."

Commander gets one



Photo by Ms. Ruby Zarzyczny

Col. John Silvia III, 939th Maintenance Group Commander and Airman 1st Class John Silvia IV sign enlistment paperwork at the Military Entrance Processing Center here. after Col. Silvia administered the oath of enlistment to his son who joined the regular Air Force March 21 and became a third generation Airman.

Requirements for Veteran's Preference change

Due to a recent change, individuals previously ineligible for veteran's preference may now be eligible. This change applies to anyone who served on active duty for more than 180 consecutive days, any part of which occurred beginning September 11, 2001 and ending as of the close of Operation Iraqi Freedom, if otherwise eligible. If you meet the requirements of this new eligibility and wish to claim veterans' preference for hiring purposes, ensure you update the "Military Service" and "Veterans' Preference For Hiring" areas of your supplemental data.

Armed Forces Kids Run

The Armed Forces Kids Run will be held at the Portland Air National Guard Base, May 20, in front of the Fitness Center, building 491. This run is for kids ages five to 13 years-old. The five and six year-olds will run one-half mile, the seven and eight year-olds will run one-mile, and the nine to 13 year-olds will run two-miles, with a finish line reward of an "America's Kids Run Tee-Shirt" and the cheers of their proud parents.

The run will start at 10:00 am. Please check-in 15 minutes prior to start time. A registration form for the run is required to be completed before May 12 and can be faxed to the 939th Services at 503-335-4177 or mailed to: 939th Services, 6801 NE Cornfoot Road, Portland, OR, 97218-2797. For more information call 503-335-4748 or 503-335-4828 or visit www.americaskidsrun.org.

Health Risk Assessment

Health Risk Assessment questionnaires must be completed within six months prior to the last day of the member's birth month annually. The HRA can be accessed at <https://www.wbits.afrc.af.mil>.

Legal Ease

The Armed Forces Legal Assistance Website is <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>. The site is a joint initiative of the Armed Forces legal assistance office and aims to provide general legal information to the military community. The information on the website is informative in nature and

should not be considered legal advice. For legal assistance, contact the 939th Legal Office at (503) 335-4610.

Free SAT/ACT Software for Military Families

In association with the Department of Defense, eKnowledge LLC announces that a group of professional football players, represented through the Victory Sports Group Agency, is donating several million dollars worth of SAT and ACT test prep programs valued at \$199 each to families in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard for the school year 2005-2006.

Active duty, National Guard, Reserve, and retired military personnel can obtain eKnowledge's \$199 SAT/ACT Standard Power Prep program(s) and the \$199 fee is waived. Families who request the program(s) pay only shipping & handling costs associated with the request.

To facilitate ordering, DoD has created a secure website through its Military Homefront site (<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>) to quickly verify a person's military status before linking them to the software ordering site.

NMFA applauds this donation and the support shown by the players and the Victory Sports Group Agency for military families.

Email your questions or comments to families@nmfa.org.

Job Fairs

The Washington Air National Guard recruiters will be in building 300 on Sunday of the April Unit Training Assembly to talk to Reservists about opportunities in the Guard. The Klamath Falls Oregon ANG recruiters will be here during the May UTA. They will be positioned in building 300 on both Saturday and Sunday. The local ANG recruiters along with the Army Guard and Army Reserve recruiters and possibly the Coast Guard or Navy recruiters will be here again during the June UTA. They will be positioned in building 170 on the north side in the Air Passenger terminal area.

What are you doing with your income tax refund this year?

" I am going to use it to pay for college. "

1st Lt.
Johnathan Felt,
939th Military Equal Opportunity



" I bought an engagement ring. "

Senior Airman
Shawn Cardwell,
939th Security Forces Flight



" I'm buying new carpets and counter tops for my house. "

Master Sgt.
Norman Brenteson
83rd Aerial Port Squadron



" I'm paying off some bills. "

Master Sgt.
Edward Angle,
939th Maintenance Group



" I have to pay taxes this year ! "

Staff Sgt.
Terry Murrell,
939th Military Equal Opportunity





Photos By Master Sgt. Ruby Zarzyczny

The 939th Maintenance Group takes a Sunday morning FOD [foreign object damage] walk, March 5.

As part of the FOD prevention program, 939th MXG Reservists line up on the flight line to conduct a routine FOD walk every UTA Sunday morning to make sure the wing's flight line is FOD free. In the freezing rain, wind or sunshine, these maintainers systematically walk the flight line picking up everything that isn't tied down to prevent debris from causing the loss of life or equipment.



939th MXG Reservists comb the underbelly of the KC-135 searching for debris to remove from the flight line during a FOD walk March 5. This FOD walk is very important to maintaining the flying mission at the wing. As an incentive, the quality assurance inspectors who run the FOD prevention program place a "golden" bolt and washer on the flight line. The Airmen who find the bolt and the washer are rewarded for finding it. In March, The "Golden" bolt and washer were found by: Tech. Sgt. Stuart Lyle and Staff Sgt. Dave Riley on the A-UTA and Master Sgt. Mike Burke and Tech. Sgt. Kevin Fogg on the B-UTA.